

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Johvi Airfield

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1. The airfield was about 4 km southeast of the town center of Johvi (59°29' N/27°25' E), Estonian SSR, near Puru (59°19' N/27°24' E), which is 3 km south-east of Johvi, along the road to Atine (59°19' N/27°27' E). The field was about 300x1,000 meters. German inscriptions in the dilapidated cantonment buildings indicated that the field was occupied by German Air Force troops during World War II. A wooden runway in the center of the field was about 30x300 meters. Four small wooden cantonment buildings were on the edge of the field.
2. The field was unoccupied and in poor condition. Trucks hauled timber from the runway and cantonment buildings to the PW camp for improvement work there. No aircraft were seen at the field.
3. A regiment of Soviet parachutists arrived in Johvi during the summer of 1947. The parachutists were quartered in private houses. Elements of the regiment were daily trucked to Puru for parachute training. A captive balloon which was about 30 meters long was released by means of a cable winch to an altitude of about 1,000 meters. Two parachutists jumped from the gondola. The soldiers wore parachute jump suits and helmets.
4. A former airfield was about 4 km west of the Johvi-Atine railroad line, about 1 km west of the village of Tammiku. The installations at the field were being dismantled, the sections of old hangars were being used for the construction of barracks buildings in the PW camp, and the landing field was being plowed. No serviceable airfield was seen in the Johvi area and there was no flying activity.

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5. A parachute unit was transferred to Johvi in the fall of 1947 or spring of 1948. Johvi is now called Ishvi by the Soviets. A four-story angular building on the road to Kohtla (59°22' N/27°14' E) at the market place, was used as quarters by the parachutists.
6. The unit of about 300 men was equipped with a captive balloon. The soldiers wore breeches, boots, Russian blouses, garrison caps, and metal badges, 4 to 5 cm in size, on their breasts. The badge showed an open parachute with a suspended jumper. The highest rank observed was a major. All soldiers were about 20 years old. They usually carried submachine guns when leaving their quarters.
7. Between the spring and fall of 1948 and in 1949 parachuting was practiced from a captive balloon in an open area about 3 km from Johvi, east of the road to Ithne. Jumps from aircraft were not seen. The soldiers occasionally drilled and had firing and combat training.
8. The parachute unit was still in Johvi in December 1949.

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